

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
DECEMBER, 2001 - FEBRUARY, 2002

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period December, 2001 - February, 2002. I've compiled observations for species which are listed as **Sporadic, Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?win" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the winter season.

Extreme drought conditions prevailed through the winter season, with December and January experiencing almost no measurable precipitation. Temperatures were relatively mild overall, punctuated by quick moving cold fronts that lowered temperatures into the teens on several occasions. Overall then, the winter season has been mild and dry, leaving the region in its second driest year since 1953. A comparison of current precipitation totals through February with the same period last year (+ or -) illustrates the extent of the drought: Panther Junction; 0.14" (-0.81"), Chisos Basin; 0.12" (-1.70"), Rio Grande Village; 0.01" (-0.93"), Castolon; 0.03" (-0.78"), and Persimmon Gap; 0.19" (-0.62"). All areas of the park, the Chisos Mountains in particular, are extremely dry.

As can be expected, drought conditions had an impact on wintering bird populations due to lack of seed and insect food sources. Birders working the annual Christmas Counts all noted the poor food crop conditions, and species and individual numbers were well below average. Sparrow populations were very reduced, with very few observations of sage sparrow as compared to last year's exceptional numbers. Also absent this winter were the sage thrasher and bluebirds that were present last winter in unusually high numbers. On the plus side, the milder winter seemed conducive to overwintering gray vireos, hummingbirds, ash-throated flycatchers, and even one common poorwill. Poor conditions in the Chisos apparently contributed to the presence of two red-breasted nuthatches in the Rio Grande Village during the Christmas Count, an unusually low elevation for this sporadically occurring species. A very early immature gray hawk showed up at Rio Grande Village on February 22 (D. Ohl).

There were several intriguing reports during the period, all of which lacked sufficient detail, or any follow-up reports, to confirm the observations: Fulvous whistling-duck at Santa Elena Crossing February 16 (hypothetical); White-tailed kite February 14 just outside the Persimmon Gap entrance (accidental winter); White-tailed hawk January 20, just west of the Maverick entrance (?winter); Elf owl January 20 at the Daniels ranch (?winter); Great kiskadee December 25 at the RGV Nature Trail (accidental spring); Piratic flycatcher January 22 at the RGV Nature Trail.

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<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
American White pelican	30	02/24	River Road East	Greg Levandoski	early
Black-crowned Night-heron	1	02/09	RGV-nature trail	Bill Taffe	acc.
Turkey vulture	1	02/14	Maverick Entrance	Dale & Frank Ohl	early
	1	02/19	Castolon	Greg Levandoski	early
Greater white-fronted goose	1	02/07	Woodson's (RRW)	Greg Levandoski	?win
Snow goose	1	12/07	RGV-nature trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Gray hawk	1im	02/22	RGV-Nature Trail RGV-Daniels Ranch	Dale Ohl Carolyn Ohl-Kolb	early
	1im	02/27	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Mark Flippo	early
Merlin	1f	01/18	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	02/03	La Clocha (RRE)	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1m	02/24	Harte Ranch Rd.	Melissa Powell	rare
Wild Turkey	2-4f	Jan/Feb	Cottonwood Camp.	Many observers	rare
Sandhill crane	3	2/09	Maverick entrance	Brian Cassell	rare Early?
Dowitcher spp.	1	12/29	Christmas Count La Clocha	Mark Adams	?win
	1	01/12	Terlingua Creek	Tom VandenBerg	?win
	1	02/17	Pettit's (RRW)	Greg Levandoski	?win
Common poorwill	1	01/18	Rte 13 (MP 19)	Mark Flippo	rare
Black-chinned Hummingbird	1imm	12/27	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	01/21	Rio Grande Vill.	Erv Drabek	rare
	1imm	01/22	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Anna's Hummingbird	1imm	10/27-1/05	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Empidonax spp.	1	01/17	5 mi. downstream Of Castolon	Greg Levandoski	rare

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	01/17	1 mi. W of Cottonwood Camp.	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	01/30	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1	02/17	Cottonwood Camp.	Greg Levandoski	spo.
Bell's vireo	1	02/22	Sam Nail ranch	D.Ohl, C.Ohl-Kolb	early
Gray vireo	1	12/09	Old Ore Road	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	12/28	Christmas Count (Juniper Cyn Rd)	Mark Adams	rare
	1	01/17	Dugout Wells	Vernon Berry	rare
	1	02/04	Dodson Trail	Melissa Powell	rare
	1	02/11	Mariscal Mine	Melissa Powell	rare
Plumbeous vireo	1	12/29	Christmas Count (RGV Circle)	??	rare
	1	01/30	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare
Western Scrub-jay	5	12/28	Christmas Count (Chisos Circle)	several observers	spo.
Chihuahuan raven	1	12/29	Christmas Count (RGV circle)	??	rare
Tree swallow	1	02/22	Cottonwood Camp.	D.Ohl, C.Ohl-Kolb	early
Violet-green Swallow	1	02/22	RGV-Nature Trail	D.Ohl, C.Ohl-Kolb	early
	1	02/22	Hot springs	Bill Zales	early
Barn Swallow	1	02/22	RGV-Nature Trail	D.Ohl, C.Ohl-Kolb	early
Carolina wren	1	12/10-01/29	Pettit's (RRW)	Greg Levandoski	rare
	1	01/17	1 mi. W. of Cottonwood camp.	Greg Levandoski	rare
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	12/29	Christmas Count (RGV Count)	M.&Brendan Flippo	spo.
Gray catbird	2	01/23	Chisos Basin	Frances Jones	acc.
Sage thrasher	1	12/09	Old Ore Road	Greg Levandoski	spo.
Wilson's warbler	1m	02/22	RGV-Nature Trail	D.Ohl, C.Ohl-Kolb	early

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	01/10	Pettit's (RRW)	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1	02/06	Harte Ranch Rd.	Melissa Powell	spo.
Sage sparrow	2	12/29	Maverick Road	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	01/10	Rte 11 (MP 20)	Melissa Powell	spo.
	1	02/21	Maverick Road	Melissa Powell	spo.
Lark bunting	5	02/02	Panther Junction	Greg Levandoski	spo.
	1m	02/06	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	spo.
	6	02/12	Maverick Rd	Melissa Powell	spo.
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	12/27	La Clocha (RRE)	Mark Flippo	spo.
Song Sparrow	1	12/28	Christmas Count (Chisos Circle)	??	rare
	9	12/29	Christmas Count (RGV Circle)	several observers	rare
	1	01/23	Chisos settling ponds	Chris Runk	rare
Red-winged Blackbird	1	02/23	Hot Springs	Mark Flippo	early
	3	01/01	Harte Ranch Road	Melissa Powell	rare
Cassin's finch	1	01/17	Dugout Wells	Vernon Berry	spo.

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2002

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period March 1 - May 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?spr" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the spring season.

Going into this spring season, the region was still experiencing extreme drought conditions. The month of March brought no rain except for a paltry four hundredths of an inch to the Rio Grande Village area. Measurable precipitation finally began falling when isolated thunderstorms started through the area by the second week of April. Most of the rain fell at the north end of the park and around Panther Junction. This isolated storm pattern continued through May with only Persimmon Gap and Panther Junction recording more than an inch of precipitation for the month. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through May 2001 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 3.29 " (+1.94"), Chisos Basin; 2.10" (-1.44"), Rio Grande Village; 0.91" (-0.70"), Castolon; 0.43" (-0.44"), and Persimmon Gap; 3.11" (+1.60"). Temperatures for the period were generally cooler than average through March and early April, and finally settling into the expected high temperatures of 100+ degrees along the river by early May.

This spring season brought a number of review species reports and two potential new species for addition to the park list. On April 17, Dennis Buss was on a river trip in Mariscal Canyon when he picked out an unusual duck in a raft of Mexican Mallards. Buss was able to approach the ducks very closely when all but one flew. Buss reported the lone bird as a male **Surf Scoter**. An accepted species for Texas, surf scoters are rare in the Trans-Pecos region outside of the Fall season, and none have been reported previously in the park. Because this would be a new species for the park, the report was sent to several Texas birding authorities for their input. Initial consensus is that Buss did indeed find a male surf scoter lurking in the deeper waters of Mariscal Canyon.

A little over a week later, several very exciting reports came in that caused a flurry of activity as birders scrambled up the Chisos Mountains looking for a **short-tailed hawk**, a male **flame-colored tanager**, **dusky-capped flycatchers**, and **slate-throated redstarts**. The hawk, though not photographed, was well documented by Chris Benesh and, if accepted by the TBRC, will represent a first record for the park. The flame-colored was very well documented with written reports, photographs and video tape and represents a third park record. The dusky-caps, while still rare here, have been observed in the Chisos annually for the past several years, including a first Texas nesting record in 2000. The slate-throated redstart reports are very interesting; three independent reports over a two day period, all in the same general vicinity (Boot Springs), each observation very brief and hence the reports lacking certain details, but together providing good documentation for the species presence.

Typically the Spring migration here peaks during the last two weeks of April and the first week of May. This held true with regard to migrant warblers with a number of unusual species being observed throughout the park. May 25-26th reports of blue-winged and black-throated blue warblers were unusual for their lateness in the season. Kelly Bryan found the season's only **Baird sparrow** at Cottonwood Campground on May 12th. Baird's sparrows have been conspicuously absent now for the past two spring seasons.

Other highlights for the spring include a pair of gray hawks that nested for the second year in a row at the south end of the Cottonwood campground. The pair of common black-hawk returned to Rio Grande Village for the 7th year in a row, utilizing the same nest as last year. As for the past five years, we cordoned off an area around the tree soon after the hawks arrived. From approximately April 20th until about May 10th, the hawks were sitting tight on the nest, presumably on eggs. On May 15th Jim Hines reported a pair of black-hawks building a nest a ½ mile away at the Daniels ranch grove. Apparently the hawks had abandoned their nest to start a new one. For the next three weeks the hawks were observed in the vicinity of the Daniels Ranch, though not displaying any fidelity to the new nest. Today (June 10), I observed the hawks back at the original nest area, both carrying fresh material to a different nest, one they built late last year after giving up on their first nest. In the seven years black-hawks have been present at Rio Grande Village, they have built at least four nests, utilized two, and fledged one youngster.

Peregrine falcons were monitored through the season, and will continue to be watched until fledging is completed. At the time of this report no numbers were available on the number of eyries within the park. Unlike last year, funding is available this year for monitoring of black-capped vireos. John Maresh of the TP&WD will be in the park with a survey team beginning in June.

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RARE BIRD RECORDS
MARCH - MAY 2002

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American White pelican	1	3/17	Study Butte	Sarah Bourbon	acc.
	3	5/03	Santa Elena Cyn	Stephen Brown	acc.
	2	5/16	Harte Ranch Rd.	Bill Bourbon	acc.
Tri-colored heron	1	5/02	Hot Springs	Jim & Lynne Weber	rare
Black-crowned night-heron	1	3/23	RGV-Nature Trail	Malcom Boothroyd	rare
	1	4/13	RGV-Nature Trail	Marjorie Malnor	rare
	1	4/18	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	4/22	RGV-Daniels Rnch	William Dawe	rare
	4*	5/25	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
*2 adults & 2 juveniles: no nesting records for park; presence of juveniles suggests probability.					
Snow Goose	1	3/8-9	Tornillo Creek	Greer Willis	rare
	3	3/15	Mariscal Canyon	Tom Vandenberg Melissa Powell	rare
Ross's goose	1	3/12	Hot Springs	Phil Dickinson	acc.
(poss)	1	3/15	Mariscal Canyon	Vandenberg/Powell	acc.
Bufflehead	4m,f	3/03	Cottonwood Camp.	Greg Levandoski	rare
Surf Scoter*	1m	4/17	Mariscal Canyon	Dennis Buss	???
*No previous records for park. Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Common black-hawk	2	3/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Dale Ohl Carolyn Ohl-Kolb	rare
	2*	3/12-31	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
	2*	4/01-30	Rio Grande Vill.	Many observers	rare
* at same nest used in 2001 season. Area near nest closed off on 3/24 to prevent unnecessary intrusion. Hawks on nest with eggs (?) from ~4/20.					
	2*	5/15	RGV-Daniels Rnch	Jim Hines	rare
* RGV pair CBHA apparently abandon nest and move to Daniels Ranch area. No activity at this year's nest???					
	2	5/27	RGV-Daniels Rnch	Tom Vandenberg	rare

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Common Black-hawk (Other than RGV)	1	3/30	Mariscal Canyon	Jeff Renfro	rare
	2	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill Miller	rare
	1	5/05	Cottonwood Camp.	Sarah Bourbon	rare
	1	5/07	Rte 16 (Alamo Ck)	Frank Deckert	rare
Broad-winged hawk	4	4/27	Rio Grande Vill.	Jon L. Dunn	rare
Red-shouldered hawk	1	3/08	Boquillas area	Bob Costanza	acc.
	1imm	4/25	RGV-campground	Mark Flippo	acc.
Short-tailed hawk	1*	4/28	Boot Springs	Chris Benesh	????

***Texas Review Species: No previous park records. Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Accepted by TBRC 1/20/03**

Merlin	1	3/13	Santa Elena Cyn.	Phil Dickinson	rare
Black-necked Stilt	1	4/05	RGV campground	Steve & Cheryl Ford	rare
Dowitcher spp.	1	3/12	Rio Grande Vill.	Bob Costanza	acc.
Ring-billed gull	1	3/13	Santa Elena Cyn.	Phil Dickinson	rare
Burrowing owl	1	3/07	River Road West	John Morlock	rare
Broad-billed Hummingbird	1f*	5/17	Chisos Basin	Tom Vandenberg	acc.

*** Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood Pending review.**

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	3/22	Panther Junction	Tom Vandenberg	rare
	1m	4/14	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	5/08-10	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	5/09	Rio Grande Vill.	Jerome Fischer	? spr.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	1*	4/26	Boot Canyon	Jon L. Dunn	acc.
	2*	5/03	Pinnacles Boot/Juniper	John Gee	acc.
	1*	5/05	Boot Spring	Rachel Douglas Garett Hodne	acc.
	1*	5/25	Boot Spring	C.J. Grimes S. McConnell J. Wilson	acc.

***Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.**

Brown-crested Flycatcher	1	4/11	RGV- Daniels Rch	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	5/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher	1*	4/21	RGV-campground	Jerry Smith	acc.

***Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Not Accepted 1/15/03**

Tropical kingbird	1	4/30	Cottonwood Camp.	Jim & Lynne Weber	rare
	3	5/01	Cottonwood Camp.	Chris Benesh	rare
	1	5/05	Cottonwood Camp.	Sarah Bourbon	rare
	1	5/23-24	RGV-Nature Trail	Susan Hancock	rare
	4	5/26	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Couch's kingbird	1	4/25	RGV- Campground	Mark Flippo	rare
Thick-billed kingbird	1*	3/12	RGV Boat Launch	Phil Dickinson	acc.

***Texas Review species: report sent to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.**

Black-capped Vireo	1m	4/20	Blue Creek	Greg Levandoski	rare
	2m	4/25	Window Trail	J&C McKee	rare
	2m	5/09	Blue Creek	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Gray vireo	1	3/16	Oak Springs	Tom VandenBerg	unc.
	1m	3/21	Dugout Wells	Mark Flippo	unc.
	3m	4/06	Blue Creek	Tom VandenBerg	unc.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	4/28	Dugout Wells	Elaine Rushing Barbara Anderson	acc.
	1	4/29	Dugout Wells	Jim & Lynne Weber	acc.
	1	4/29	Dugout Wells	Chris Benesh	acc.
Gray catbird	1	5/10	Cottonwood Camp.	Jan & Will Risser	rare
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	5/03	Pinnacles Trail	John Gee	spo.
Carolina wren	1	4/17	RGV_Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	4/25	RGV_Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2	5/26	RGV_Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Blue-winged Warbler	1m	5/26	RGV-Daniels Rch	C.J. Grimes	acc.
Black-throated Blue warbler	1	5/25	Cottonwood Camp.	Susan Hancock	acc.
Hermit warbler	1	4/19	Pinnacles Trail	B.Ely, S.Hande, R.Hoverman B.Holliday	rare
	1	4/23	Pinnacles Trail	P&B Dewenter	rare
	1	4/29	Boot Springs	Douglas Johnson	rare
	1	5/08	Colima Trail	Chris Runk	rare
Blackburnian Warbler	1m	4/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Robert Quinn	acc.
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	5/02	RGV-RV Camp.	J. & L. Noack	acc.
Grace's warbler	1	4/24	Cottonwood Camp.	D&J Wright	rare
Worm-eating Warbler	1	4/23	Pine Canyon	Robert Quinn	rare
	1	5/05	Cottonwood Camp.	Sarah Bourbon	rare
Ovenbird	1	5/05	Blue Creek Tr.	A. Jaramillo	rare
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	5/01	Rio Grande Vill.	Richard Guthrie	rare
Kentucky warbler	1	4/17	Sam Nail Ranch	Daan Saude	acc.
Hooded warbler	1	4/27	Rio Grande Vill.	Jon L. Dunn	rare

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Slate-throated Redstart	1*	4/25	Boot Canyon	Ron Clark	acc.
	1*	4/27	Boot Canyon	Robert Sammel	acc.
	1*	4/27	Boot Springs	Mike Millican	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Scarlet tanager	1f	5/02	Cottonwood Camp.	John Gee	rare
Flame-colored Tanager	1m*	4/26	Boot Canyon	Jon L. Dunn Matt V.	acc.
	1m*	4/27	Boot Canyon	Kelly Cotton	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports, photos, video to TBRC. Accepted 1/15/03					
Sage sparrow	1	4/16	Dugout Wells	Bob Jenkins	?spr
Fox sparrow	1	4/06	Sam Nail Ranch	James Williams	?spr.
Baird's sparrow	1*	5/12	Cottonwood Camp.	Kelly Bryan	rare
*Texas Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1f	5/07	Sam Nail Ranch	Jan & Will Risser	rare
	1m	5/17	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Hooded oriole	1m	3/18	Hot Springs	Larry Miller	rare
	1m	3/29	Hot Springs	Mark Flippo	rare
	1imm	4/11	RGV-Daniels Rch	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	4/21	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	rare

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RARE BIRD RECORDS
JUNE - JULY 2002

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period June 1 - July 31. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?sum" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the summer season.

The sporadic rainfall pattern that established at the end of the spring season carried into June and the first part of July, then was broken with a nearly three-week long stretch of almost daily rains. The response by the desert was immediate; everything greened up, wildflowers bloomed, and long-dry arroyos fed torrents of water into the languishing Rio Grande. Year to date precipitation as compared to ytd totals through July 2001 (+ or -) is as follows: Panther Junction; 8.59" (+6.25"), Chisos Basin; 6.57" (+2.25"), Rio Grande Village; 5.01" (+2.81"), and Castolon; 6.57" (+5.39"). Persimmon Gap precipitation measurements were not recorded for July.

Since their abandonment of their nest for unknown reasons in May, and a brief move and abortive attempt at nesting in the Daniels Ranch area, The common black-hawks at Rio Grande Village remained in the area, closely associated with what has come to be called the "black-hawk grove". Apparently another nesting season has passed by with no young produced. Interestingly, two independent reports of a juvenile black-hawk in the Boot Springs came in during late June. The lack of details and the unlikely habitat suggest a juvenile zone-tailed hawk as opposed to a black-hawk.

An unexpected find was a very ragged-looking groove-billed ani at the Panther Junction residence area on July 29. Always rare here, most observations of this species come from along the Rio Grande. This lone individual stayed only briefly before disappearing into a large flock of blackbirds.

Unusual for the season was a lack of calliope or rufous hummingbirds in late July. Apparently the good rains and resultant wildflower bloom has dispersed the hummers and kept them away from feeders. Even expected species have been somewhat lacking, although many birders were able to find the coveted Lucifer at blooming agaves in early June.

Dusky-capped flycatchers were present again in the Chisos mountains through the spring and summer seasons but no observed nesting was reported. Tropical kingbirds are now expected annually at Cottonwood Campground, but for the first time at least one individual, probably a pair, was present at the Rio Grande Village campground and nature trail from late May through the reporting period. An unexpected female scissor-tailed flycatcher showed up in the Chisos Basin in mid-July.

TPWD Researcher John Maresh returned to the park to perform a survey of black-capped vireos. He located 14 adult birds (9 males, 4 females, 1 unidentified adult), two family groups with 3 confirmed hatch year birds, and 2 nests with eggs. Of these two nests, one with a nestling and three eggs was depredated within two days of the end of the survey. Encouragingly, no brown-headed cowbird activity was noted in association with the vireos.

Unusual warblers reported during the period include a golden-cheeked warbler (unconfirmed), an early hermit warbler, two **red-faced warblers**, and two painted redstarts, all in the high Chisos mountains.

During the reproductive season, 11 historic Peregrine falcon eyries were monitored. Paired falcons were found to be occupying nine of the sites at the beginning of the season. At one of the sites, only one peregrine was seen, and one site was unoccupied. During the final stages of the season, six fledglings were visually confirmed from a total of five eyries.

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Black-crowned night-heron	1imm	6/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	acc.
Yellow-crowned Night-heron	1imm	6/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
Common black-hawk	2	6/10	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	6/19	Rio Grande Vill.	Jerry Saul	rare
	1	6/28	Rio Grande Vill.	David Shackelford	rare
	1	7/02	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Dan Leavitt	rare
	1	7/23	Rio Grande Vill.	Gary & Nicholas Clark	rare
Groove-billed ani	1	7/29	Panther Junction	Kym Beckwith Mark Flippo	rare
Flammulated owl	1	6/29	Boot Canyon	David Shackelford	rare
Green kingfisher	1f	6/29	RGV-Nature Trail	Yvette Lynn Rhonda Donley	rare
	1m	6/30	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1f	7/09	RGV-Nature Trail	Dan Leavitt	rare
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	2*	6/20	Boot Canyon	Garth Howard	acc.
	1*	6/30	Boot Canyon	David Shackelford	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood. Pending review.					
Brown-crested Flycatcher	2	6/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Tropical kingbird	1	6/18	RGV-Nature Trail	Sharon Miller	acc.
	4	6/23	Cottonwood Camp.	Mark Flippo	acc.
	1	6/29	RGV-Nature Trail	Yvette Lynn Rhonda Donley	acc.
	2	7/19	RGV-Nature Trail	Victor Emanuel Barry Zimmer	acc.
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	1f	7/18	Chisos Basin	Ron Grubbs	acc.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Black-capped Vireo	14m,f	6/01-08	See comments	John Maresh	rare
	1m	6/10	Chisos Basin	Kym Beckwith Mark Flippo	rare
	2m,f	6/17	Window Trail	Bruce Cohen	rare
	1	7/10	Window Trail	??	rare
Golden-cheeked Warbler	1m	7/23	Pinnacles Trail	Jeff Hollyhead	acc.
Hermit warbler	1m	8/03	Pinnacles Trail	Laura Packer	early
Red-faced warbler	1*	6/29	Boot Springs	David Shackelford	spo.
	1*	7/24	Boot Springs	Jessie Dougherty	spo.
* Texas review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood Pending Review					
Painted redstart	1	7/22	Boot Canyon	Gary & Nicholas Clark	spo.
	1m	8/03	Pinnacles Trail	Laura Packer	spo.
Indigo bunting	1m	6/17	Window Trail	Bruce Cohen	rare

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK
RARE BIRD RECORDS
AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2002

Attached is a list of observations reported by visitors and staff for the period August 1 - November 30. I've compiled only those observations for species which are listed as **Rare, Accidental, Hypothetical** or **Not included** (?) on the park's checklist. A "?fall" indicates a species which is documented for the park but not in the fall season.

The autumn season here was best characterized by the term "on again, off again", with respect to rainfall patterns. August was very warm and wet (Chisos Basin - 5.51"). September was uncharacteristically dry (Chisos Basin - 0.11"). October brought good rains (Chisos Basin - 3.55"). November dried up (Chisos Basin - 0.07"). A comparison of current year to date precipitation with ytd totals through November 2001 (+ or -) graphically shows the overall wetter conditions this year from the record drought of 2001: Panther Junction; 13.68" (+6.03"), Chisos Basin; 15.83" (+6.16"), Rio Grande Village; 8.81" (+5.45"), and Castolon; 9.16" (+6.80"). Temperatures through the season were typically hot during August and September, with a general cooling trend beginning in October, and the first true cold front not arriving until November 21 and lingering through the Thanksgiving holiday.

Lingering summer season birds provided the highlights of August, particularly a pair of **dusky-capped flycatchers** with two juveniles, one to three **red-faced warblers**, one of which was a reported juvenile, and a couple of **painted redstarts**, all in the high Chisos. Given the presence of the flycatchers in Boot Canyon throughout the breeding season, the observations of juvenile birds indicate a *probable* nesting record. The observation of a juvenile red-faced warbler is intriguing. Two RFWA reports in June and July alongside the series of sightings in August suggest the possibility of nesting. There are no documented nesting records here for this species.

A slight cool system passage in late September brought a least bittern and Virginia rail to Rio Grande Village and also produced an intriguing report of a **black rail** at the Daniel's ranch area. Follow-up visits failed to relocate anything but soras. On November 20, a second report was turned in of *two* black rails at the same location. As with the earlier report, follow-up visits have turned up nothing, so for the time being, the record will show *possible* black rails.

Overcast and rainy conditions in early November were followed by a good showing of thrushes (Western and Eastern bluebird, American robin, hermit thrush) and mimids (gray catbird and sage thrashers) at mid-month. Included in this movement were a late western tanager and an unusual pine warbler, both at Rio Grande Village. So far, no Cassin's finches or crossbills have appeared, save a lone juvenile crossbill at Sam Nail Ranch very early in the season. A pair of green kingfishers, absent last year, returned again to the Rio Grande Village nature trail.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Least bittern	1	9/27	RGV-Nature Trail	Richard Palmer	rare
Gray hawk	1	8/10	Cottonwood Camp.	N&A Cooksey	rare
	1	8/31	Cottonwood Camp.	B.Freeman P. Hockey	rare
	1	9/19	Cottonwood Camp.	Ron, Judy Winn	rare
	2	10/08	Cottonwood Camp.	Bill & Judy Quick	rare
Common black-hawk	1	8/03	Santa Elena Cyn.	Sarah Bourbon	rare
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	11/20	RGV-Nature Trail	Greg Levandoski	acc.
Merlin	1	8/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Freeman & Hockey	rare
Snow goose	1	11/11	Persimmon Gap	Tom VandenBerg	rare
Wild turkey	1	8/17	Boquillas Canyon	Tom VandenBerg	rare
	2f	9/19	Cottonwood Camp.	R&I Lengyer	rare
Black rail	1**	9/28	RGV-Daniels Ranch	David Poteet	hyp.
	2**	11/20	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Dennis Larsen	hyp.
**Unconfirmed. Only one previous report: Verma Starts 3/5/78 at RGV.					
Virginia rail	2	9/27	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Richard Palmer	rare
Upland sandpiper	2	8/20	Rio Grande Vill.	Brian Gibbons	rare
	3	8/31	Rte 16 (SEC)	Freeman & Hockey	rare
Wilson's phalarope	1	9/10	Monster Buck Tank	Melissa Powell	rare
Band-tailed Pigeon	30	8/28-9/3	Chisos	Freeman & Hockey	spo.
Common nighthawk	2-3	8/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Freeman & Hockey	rare
	3m,f	9/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flipppo	rare
Lucifer Hummingbird	2im	10/18	Panther junction	Mark Flipppo	late

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1m	8/5-19	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	1m	8/30	Panther Junction	Tom Vandenberg	rare
	1m	8/29	Boot Canyon	Freeman & Hockey	rare
Anna's hummingbird	1imm	10/14	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
	2imm	11/19-30	Panther Junction	Mark Flippo	rare
Calliope Hummingbird	1f	8/25	Pinnacles Tr.	Mark Flippo	rare
	3f	8/29-9/2	Pine, Boot Cyn	Freeman & Hockey	rare
Green kingfisher	1f	8/05	RGV-Nature Trail	Glenn Cureton	rare
	1m	9/07	Rio Grande Vil.	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m,f	9/27	RGV-Nature Trail	Richard Palmer	rare
	2m,f	10/12	RGV-Nature Trail	Tom Vandenberg	rare
	1m	10/17	RGV-Nature Trail	Dan Leavitt	rare
	1m	11/11	RGV-Nature Trail	K.Beckwith,Flippo	rare
Dusy-capped Flycatcher	2	8/18	Boot Canyon	Mark Flippo	acc.
	4*	8/22	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	acc.
	4*	8/25	Boot Canyon	Jay Packer	acc.
	4*	8/29	Boot Canyon	Freeman & Hockey	acc.
*Texas Review Species: Reports to TBRC:Lockwood 2 adults + 2 juveniles probable nesting.					
Tropical kingbird	1	8/3-4	RGV-Nature Trail	Anne Curtin	rare
	2	8/06	RGV-Nature Trail	Dan Leavitt	rare
	1	8/10	Cottonwood Camp.	N&A Cooksey	rare
Black-capped Vireo	1	8/30	Window Trail	Freeman & Hockey	rare
Gray vireo	2	8/02	Pine Canyon	Freeman & Hockey	rare
	1	9/29	Pine Canyon	Richard Palmer	rare
Purple martin	2	8/04	Panther Jctn.	Mark Flippo	acc.
Brown creeper	1	11/13	RGV-Campground	Jim Hines	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Carolina wren	2	8/31	Santa Elena Cyn	Freeman & Hockey	rare
	1	9/07	RGV-Nature Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	1	10/12	RGV-Nature Trail	Tom Vandenberg	rare
	1	11/20	RGV-Nature Trail	Greg Levandoski	rare
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3m,f	11/15	RGV-Daniels Ranch	Bill Carlson	spo.
Western bluebird	6m,f	11/10	Panther Junction	K.Beckwith,Flippo	rare
Gray catbird	1	11/11	RGV-Nature Trail	K.Beckwith,Flippo	rare
	1	11/15	RGV-Nature Trail	Bill Carlson	rare
	2	11/19	RGV-nature Trail	Kelly Bryan	rare
	1	11/20	RGV-Nature Trail	Greg Levandoski	rare
Sage thrasher	see notes		throughout park	several observers	spo.
Lucy's warbler*	1HY	8/30	Window Trail	Freeman & Hockey	late
*Unusually high elevation for this species.					
Black-throated Green warbler	1f	8/23	South Rim	Jay Packer	rare
	2m,f	8/25	Pinnacles Trail	Mark Flippo	rare
	2m	8/29	Boot Springs	Freeman & Hockey	rare
Grace's warbler	1f	8/24	Boot Canyon	Jay Packer	rare
Pine warbler	1	11/13	Rio Grande Vill.	Jim Hines	acc.
Northern Waterthrush	2	9/07	Rio Grande Vill.	Mark Flippo	rare
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	8/21	Boot Canyon	Brian Gibbons	acc.
Red-faced warbler	1*	8/10	Boot Canyon	Eric Carpenter Tim Fennell	spo.
	1*	8/16	Boot Springs	Jim & Barb Hines	spo.
	1*	8/16	Boot Spring	Audrey Harvey John Rosford	spo.
	3*	8/21	Boot Rock Overlook	Brian Gibbons Derek Hill	spo.
	1*	8/21	Boot Spring	Gibbons & Hill	spo.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>PARK STATUS</u>
Red-faced warbler	1*	8/25	Boot Canyon	Mark Flippo	spo.
	1*	8/25	Boot Canyon	Philip Restron	spo.
*Review Species: Report to TBRC:Lockwood Gibbons & Hill report 2 adults and a juvenile on 8/21. Possible breeding? Accepted by TBRC 6/03					
Painted redstart	2	8/09	Pinnacles Trail	Eric Carpenter Tim Fennell	spo.
	1	8/24	Boot Canyon	Philip Restron	spo.
	1m	8/29	Boot Canyon	Freeman & Hockey	spo.
	2m	9/01	Boot Canyon	Freeman & Hockey	spo.
Western tanager	1f	11/09	RGV-Campground	Jim Hines	late
Lazuli bunting	1m	8/10	Blue Creek Cyn	N&A Cooksey	acc.
	2-3	8/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Freeman & Hockey	acc.
Indigo bunting	2-3	8/30	Rio Grande Vill.	Freeman & Hockey	acc.
Red crossbill	1HYf	8/17	Sam Nail Ranch	Mark Flippo	spo.